

Jane,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. We have been unable to source sufficient data to accurately respond to the question.

Detailed return data has only been available to the EPA for 3-4 years and the oldest records kept by the "supercollectors" extend back about 10 years only.

Anecdotal responses from people with a long history of involvement in the recycling industry indicate that container return rates have remained relatively constant over the length of the container deposit system's operation. The introduction of kerbside recycling has not significantly effected return rates, either positively or negatively. One supercollector has indicated that they believe that only 1-3% of containers are returned via kerbside. Unfortunately we are unable to provide data to validate this assertion.

This should not be surprising as CDL primarily covers containers usually consumed away from the home. The CDL system was in operation for more than 10 years before kerbside systems were introduced in Adelaide so the South Australian experience is unlikely to provide a guide as to the effect of CDL introduction on kerbside returns in jurisdictions where CDL is new. What is clear however, is that the return rates of beverage containers in South Australia (where both systems operate side by side) are significantly higher than States which depend only on kerbside.

Regards
Peter

Peter Dolan

Director Science and Sustainability
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